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SIPDIS

STATE FOR DAS BRADTKE, EUR/RPM, EUR/SE

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TAGS: [MARR](#) [PREL](#) [TU](#)

SUBJECT: ISTANBUL SUMMIT: TURKEY SUPPORTIVE OF GME BUT  
WANTS SUPPORT FOR A NATO-EU COMMON VISION

(U) Classified by DCM Robert Deutsch, reasons 1.5, b/d.

1. (C) Pol-Mil Counselor and polmiloff met with MFA DDG for NATO Affairs Fatih Ceylan to sound out MFA's thinking about the Greater Middle East (GME) initiative at the Istanbul Summit after the late January visit to Washington of Ambassadors Sensoy and Morali. Ceylan said that Ambassadors Sensoy and Morali had extensive discussions during their recent visit to Washington on the GME, and the GOT was actively "working on it." Ceylan said that the GOT understood its importance of the GME, and MFA was working out how to best support it. The NATO Department at MFA was working on the security pillar of the initiative, whereas other departments were working on political, economic and societal pillars. Ceylan noted with approval that the US hoped to implement the initiative using existing mechanisms within NATO, particularly the Mediterranean Dialogue and the Partnership for Peace. He said the UK DCM had recently raised similar points with him. PM Erdogan had spoken several times in recent statements of his support for "developing the Middle East." Ceylan concluded that there was a political willingness to "share this initiative, as stated by the Prime Minister."

2. In a parallel conversation, DG Morali told DCM that the GOT was anxious to assist with our NATO GME concept. They were pleased that the concept distributed at NATO drew on existing mechanisms and did not overreach in trying to push NATO projects beyond security. Morali indicated that they remain concerned with the interconnection (in NATO) between the existing Mediterranean Dialogue and the new initiative. He added that they look forward to continued engagement with the US on the GME as it unfolds in this Summer's three summits.

3. (C) Ceylan said, however, that Turkey's proposal for a NATO-EU common strategic vision at the Summit had met a lukewarm response in Washington. Ceylan reiterated reftel points that in recent statements there seemed to be much common ground between NATO and the EU on the subjects of preventive engagement, terrorism and transatlantic relations. Turkey believed it was important to construct a common strategic vision based on these building blocks that would consolidate commonalities between NATO and the EU. Ceylan gave PolMil Counselor a copy of the non-paper on the issue (para 4) that Morali provided to USG interlocutors in Washington, and suggested the two initiatives could dovetail, e.g. a statement that includes both a GME element and a common strategic vision between NATO and the EU. Morali indicated that Turkey would like to see further progress on the NATO-EU vision at the summit. He said the GOT believed that moving forward in implementing Berlin Plus in real circumstances (e.g. in Bosnia) created a circumstance where NATO and the EU should demonstrate a common vision. He commented favorably on suggestions received from the UK that such a statement could fairly easily and usefully focus on a common vision against Terrorism.

4. (C) Comment: Getting Turkish support for a Greater Middle East initiative is pushing on an open door. But the Turks still are looking for clarity of the broadest definition, including their role in the broad applications. At the same time as a boost to their EU candidacy, they are seeking to define elements of a NATO-EU Common Strategic Vision.

5. (U) Begin Text of Turkish Non-Paper:

Non-Paper on NATO-EU Common Strategic Vision

-- NATO-EU common understanding is that both military and non-military threats and risks of the 21st century are diverse in nature. The international environment is equally more dynamic and less predictable.

-- As interlocking institutions, NATO and the EU, by acting in synergy and making full use of Berlin Plus arrangements, can constitute a formidable force for peace, security and well being on a global scale.

-- A shared threat assessment by both organizations should lead to common words and deeds. NATO-EU Common Strategic Vision is the best means to this end.

-- There is already a solid basis to build upon in this regard: December 2002, NATO-EU arrangements on the strategic partnership of the two organizations. These arrangements have been further defined and solidified in the exchange of letters between the two Secretary Generals on 17 March 2003, establishing the "Compilation of the Results of the work on NATO-EU Relations." The documents listed in this compilation provide the necessary mechanisms for NATO support for EU-led operations where the Alliance as a whole is not engaged.

-- This solid basis is further buttressed by the shared values and common interests of the transatlantic partners. The transatlantic partnership constitutes an irreplaceable asset in which NATO remains the foundation of collective defense.

-- The European Security Strategy is a welcome and constructive step in contributing to a NATO-EU Common Strategic Vision.

-- A stronger European Security and Defense Policy/Union is a means of having a stronger NATO-EU Strategic Partnership.

-- Our joint work should be guided by the principles of openness, transparency and inclusiveness.

-- Coherence, partnership, cooperation and effective mutual consultations are the tools at our disposal for the common endeavor.

-- Our commitment to working together as Allies and Partners continues to be the framework in which we aim to build our efforts for peace and stability. A NATO-EU framework is the most suitable multilateral tool to achieve this mission.

-- Terrorism and the proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery constitute the greatest potential threats to our security. Both organizations have already charted a common course for the fight against these scourges.

-- Further development of NATO-EU cooperation in the area of security and stability in the Mediterranean will also provide synergies in our fight against terrorism.

-- We categorically reject and condemn terrorism in all its forms. It has complex causes, therefore needs a comprehensive and multifaceted response. Our concerted approach would provide a great added value to our common fight against terrorism.

-- We are committed to the goal of preventing the proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery. Achieving greater adherence to multilateral treaty regimes on disarmament, arms control, and non-proliferation, as well as strengthening them and their verification provision, remain to be our main tools in the is effort. We are determined to take joint NATO-EU work on non-proliferation further ahead.

-- Regional instability continues to be a threat to our security. Our concerted approach in the Balkans has already yielded tangible results. Following our successful joint action within the framework of Operation Concordia in Macedonia, a new window of opportunity has emerged for joint action in Bosnia and Herzegovina. NATO has decided to terminate SFOR in Bosnia-Herzegovina on .....\*. Following the Alliance's decision, Operation X\*, which the EU has decided to launch on ....., by making use of NATO assets and capabilities through the Berlin Plus arrangements, is further proof of our determination to jointly bring peace and stability to the Balkans. NATO should continue to be engaged as ever in the security and stability of Bosnia-Herzegovina and in the Balkans as a whole.

-- Both NATO and the EU continue to further their efforts through a common approach towards providing peace and stability in Afghanistan by making best use of their comparative advantages. Further cooperation on the territory among major organizations, including NATO, the EU and the United Nations, will be key in achieving the final aim of consolidating peace and stability in Afghanistan.

-- NATO and the EU will continue to work together in the same spirit for peace and stability in other areas struck by conflict. They will join their efforts in humanitarian and peace building missions.

-- Both organizations confirm their willingness and readiness to work together in dealing with man-made or natural disasters.

-- Developing effective military capabilities in a consistent, transparent and mutually reinforcing way is a priority for NATO-EU cooperation. This cooperative effort will make available the required military means for effective action.

-- NATO-EU cooperation in areas mentioned above could only benefit from more frequent NATO-EU joint crisis management exercises, to be followed by joint lessons learned analysis. CME/CMX 03 has proved to be a useful and effective instrument in planning for similar experiences.

-- Bad governance, corruption, weak institutions, abuse of power and human rights continue to pose a threat to international security. Organized crime is another threat undermining international security that needs to be urgently addressed. NATO and the EU are determined to work together against such diffuse threats, with special emphasis on the Mediterranean, the Balkans, Central Asia and the Caucasus.

-- Conflict prevention proves to be more important than ever. It is never too early to initiate cooperative and united efforts for conflict prevention. Regional organisations (Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organisation, Organisation of the Islamic Conference, Economic Cooperation Organisation) are useful partners in this effort. NATO and the EU can each provide their accumulated institutional expertise to this end in a concerted way. Furthermore, OSCE and the Council of Europe are close partners in this common endeavor.

#### Conclusion

-- We will be reporting on the implementation of this joint strategic vision to our next summit on....

-- Facing the challenges, threat and risks of the 21st century together, NATO and the EU are united in their strategic partnership for the maintenance of peace and stability in the world.

\* EU is expecting to launch an EU-led operation in B-H following the termination of SFOR. This new EU-led operation (nicknamed Operation X for the moment) will also have a military component making use of NATO assets and capabilities. A separate declaration would most probably be made for this purpose during the Summit.

End text of non-paper.  
EDELMAN